

Questions #5 & 6 submitted by committee member Vander Broek

5) *What is the cost for taking the exam? (I think the applicant group may have already provided that information, but I don't recall).*

6) *Do you have to be a member of the state or national organizations, or both, in order to take the exam?*

CST Exam Eligibility & Fees

(Obtained from <http://nbstsa.org/examinations-cst.html>)

Establishing Eligibility to Test

The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) retains the sole authority to establish eligibility requirements and make all final decisions regarding eligibility.

Before testing, individuals must first establish eligibility by submitting the appropriate examination application form along with the correct fees. NBSTSA does not refund processing fees for ineligible candidates.

Once approved, NBSTSA provides candidates with an Authorization to Test number (ATT), and both the phone number and web address to contact the testing agency to schedule the test.

NBSTSA accepts all properly completed applications from qualified applicants regardless of the applicant's age, sex, race, religion, marital status, disability or national origin.

For a list of Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) approved surgical technology programs go to www.caahep.org or call 727-210-2350. For a list of Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) approved surgical technology programs go to www.abhes.org or call 703-917-9503.

Certified Surgical Technologist Eligibility Options:

Option 1

If you are . . .

Then you need the following documentation:

A current or previously certified CST.

CST Renewal Application with your current or previous certification number written in.

[Click here for the online CST Renewal Application.](#)

[Click here for the CST Renewal Application.](#)

Option 2

If you are . . .

Then you need the following documentation:

A graduate of a surgical technology program which was CAAHEP (www.caahep.org) or ABHES (www.abhes.org) accredited during your enrollment. The websites only list currently accredited programs. Call us at 800-707-0057 to find out about previously accredited programs or programs currently undergoing the process to become accredited.

ONE of the following: notarized letter (on institutional letterhead) from the Program Director which states your name, date of graduation and type of degree awarded, copy of graduation certificate or transcript. Transcripts do not have to be official; however, NBSTSA reserves the right to request an official transcript.

[Click here for the online CST Examination Application.](#)

[Click here for the CST Examination Application.](#)

Option 3

If you are . . .

Then you need the following documentation:

A graduate of a surgical first assisting program which was CAAHEP (www.caahep.org) accredited during your enrollment. The website only lists currently accredited programs. Call us at [**800-707-0057**](tel:800-707-0057) to find out about previously accredited programs or programs currently undergoing the process to become accredited.

ONE of the following: notarized letter (on institutional letterhead) from the Program Director which states your name, date of graduation and type of degree awarded, copy of graduation certificate or transcript. Transcripts do not have to be official; however, NBSTSA reserves the right to request an official transcript.

[Click here for the online CST Examination Application.](#)

[Click here for the CST Examination Application.](#)

Option 4

If you are . . .

Then you need the following documentation:

A graduate of a military training program in surgical technology, whether it was before, during or after having CAAHEP accreditation.

ONE of the following: a copy of your DD214 (must state location of the base where program was completed), a copy of your graduation certificate from the surgical technology training program OR a smart transcript.

[Click here for the online CST Examination Application.](#)

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Option 5

If you have on-the-job training in surgical technology or are a graduate from a surgical technology program that did not hold CAAHEP accreditation during your enrollment, the Accelerated Alternate Delivery (AAD) Pathway will take into account the previous education and experience you have to determine which classes you must take to meet the requirements of a CAAHEP accredited program. Distance learning options are available. Upon graduation from an AAD Program, you will have a degree that makes you eligible for the CST Examination. [Click here](#) and choose "AAD Approved Programs List" to find a list of the schools that offer the Accelerated Alternate Delivery Pathway. Program details may vary. NBSTSA recommends contacting multiple schools to see which one will work best for you.

Testing Fees

First Time Test Takers			
Processing Fee	Exam Fee (AST Members)	Exam Fee (Non Members)	Total Fee
\$60	\$130	\$230	\$190/\$290
Current or Previous Certified Surgical Technologist Renewing Certification by Examination			
Processing Fee	Exam Fee (AST Members)	Exam Fee (Non Members)	Total Fee
\$60	\$339	\$439	\$399/\$499